

REMARKS

The Office Action required restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-54 drawn to an anastomosis apparatus or system, classified in class 606, subclass 153.
- II. Claims 55-58, drawn to a cannula, classified in class 600, subclass 566.
- III. Claims 59-60, drawn to a trocar, classified in class 607, subclass 185.
- IV. Claims 61-63, drawn to a surgical fastener cartridge, classified in class 606, subclass 219.
- V. Claims 64-81, drawn to a method for performing an anastomosis, classified in class 128, subclass 898.
- VI. Claims 82-111, drawn to an occlusion device, classified in class 606, subclass 213.
- VII. Claims 112-122, drawn to dual-stage release fastener, classified in class 606, subclass 151.

In response, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group V, identified by the Office action as corresponding to claims 64-81, for examination at this time. Claims 1-63 and 82-122 are not elected.

It is respectfully submitted that there would be no significant burden on the PTO to search two or more of these groups. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the PTO must examine it on the merits, even though it may arguably include claims to distinct or independent inventions. M.P.E.P. § 803.

A request for a one (1) month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) has been filed with this amendment. Please charge to Deposit Account No. 13-2546 the fee of \$120.00 which is required for the one-month extension of time.


An information disclosure statement has been filed with this response.

If the Examiner comes to believe that a telephone conversation may be useful in addressing any remaining open issues in this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at 763-391-9867.

Please charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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